

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /081 W

-----232108Z 007298 /62

R 231520Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6138

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, NA

SUBJ: NAMIBIA: REFERENDUM RESULTS; MOVES TOWARD FORMATION
OF NEW POLITICAL PARTY

REF: CAPE TOWN 0805

1. FINAL RESULT IN WHITE REFERENDUM MAY 17 WAS OVERWHELMING
VOTE IN FAVOR OF INDEPENDENCE UNDER THE TURNHALLE PRINCIPLES.
OF A TOTAL OF 32,029 VOTES OR 61 0/0 OF WHITES REGISTERED TO
VOTE), 30,329 (94 0/0) WERE IN FAVOR AND ONLY 1700 VOTED AGAINST.
ALTHOUGH DISAPPOINTED BY WHAT SOME CONSIDERED A RELATIVELY
LOW VOTER TURNOUT, BOTH NOTIONALIST LEADERS IN NAMIBIA
AND NATIONALIST AND OPPOSITRSN LEADERS IN SOUTHSFRICA
EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT RESULT.

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2. DESPITE OVERWHELMING "YES" VOTE IN REFERENDUM,
MUCH OF IT DUE TO MUDGE'S CAMPAIGN EFFORTS, WHITE
ENTHUSIASM INSIDE NAMIBIA WAS MUTED, LARGELY AS A CON-
SEQUENCE OF UNCERTAINTY RESULTING FROM ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS
ON NAMIBIA BETWEEN WESTERN POWERS AND SAG. THE SMALL
OPPOSITION FEDERAL PARTY FELT REFERENDUM A "FARCE" IN

VIEW OF SAG AGREEMENT NOT TO INSTALL INTERIM GOVERNMENT. NATIONALISTS, WHILE ADMITTING THAT "ADJUSTMENTS" WOULD BE MADE, BELIEVED IT IMPORTANT TO COMMIT WHITE VOTERS TO PRINCIPLE OF INDEPENDENCE AND DEMONSTRATE VOTER CONFIDENCE IN WHAT HAD ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED TOWARD THAT END. MOREOVER, IF SAG WESTERN TALKS SHOULD NOT SUCCEED, THE REFERENDUM RESULTS WOULD JUSTIFY AN ATTEMPT TO PICK UP THE PIECES AND CARRY ON WITH THE TURNHALLE. IT WAS ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY IN A WAY TO REGISTER OPPOSITION TO SWAPO AND ASSUME MORE OF THE INITIATIVE. ACCORDING TO A CANADIAN EMBASSY OFFICER VISITING WINDHOEK, SWAPO REPRESENTATIVES INSIDE NAMIBIA WERE UPSET THAT THE WESTERN POWERS HAD NOT INSISTED THAT THE REFERENDUM BE STOPPED. THESE SWAPO REPRESENTATIVES EVIDENTLY BELIEVE THAT THE REFERENDUM PROVIDED A SIGNIFICANT PROPAGANDA COUP FOR THE TURNHALLE BY SHOWING SO GREAT A PROPORTION OF WHITE SUPPORT.

3. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, SEVERAL BLACK AND BROWN DELEGATIONS BEGAN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE REFERENDUM RESULTS WERE KNOWN TO HOLD EXPLORATORY TALKS AIMED AT FORMING A SINGLE NON-RACIAL POLITICAL PARTY OF TURNHALLE SUPPORTERS. ALTHOUGH ALL DELEGATES INCLUDING THE WHITES WERE INVITED, THE TALKS WERE INITIALLY ATTENDED ONLY BY THE BASTER, DAMARA, HERERO, OVAMBO AND TSWANA DELEGATIONS. DR. BEN AFRICA WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE. ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND THAT DIRK MUDGE IS FAVORABLY DISPOSED, PRESS REPORTS FROM WINDHOEK INDICATE THAT WHITE LEADERS A.H. DU PLESSIE AND EBAN VAN ZIJL BALKED AT THE IDEA OF A NEW NON-RACIAL POLITICAL PARTY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND DESIRING TO PRESERVE THE WHITE PARTY AS A SEPARATE ENTITY, EXPRESSED THEIR PREFERENCE FOR AN "ALLIANCE" BETWEEN DELEGATIONS. SOME BLACKS, MEANWHILE, OPPOSED THE INCLUSION OF WHITE DELEGATES UNTIL THE NATIONAL PARTY BREAKS COMPLETELY WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL PARTY. NELSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VOTING, INDEPENDENCE, REFERENDUMS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAPET00835
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770183-1034
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770529/aaaaazew.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0bc4428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: REFERENDUM RESULTS; MOVES TOWARD FORMATION OF NEW POLITICAL PARTY
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